

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00882 01 OF 02 031456Z

47

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SP-03 EB-11 IGA-02

SWF-02 SS-20 SPM-01 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 INR-11

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 HEW-08 DOTE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /228 W

----- 090952

R 031230Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4991

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGUI 0882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ETRN, CT, ENRG, GIND, EAGR, ETRO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974; DROUGHT EFFECTS ON
CAR

REF (A) STATE 156186; (B) BANGUI A-39, MAY 4; (C) BANGUI 0411

1. SUMMARY:

SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL POST HAS SOUGHT UPDATE EARLIER ASSESSMENTS
EFFECTS OF RAINFALL SHORTAGES ON CAR (REFS B AND C) DRAWING ON
MORE RECENT GOCAR METEOROLOGICAL AND WATER LEVEL STATISTICS AND
DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDP, WHO AND EDF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIONS,
FRENCH AID MISSION CHIEF AND RESIDENT AMERICAN MISSIONARIES.
IN LIGHT THIS REAPPRAISAL CAR SITUATION, MODEST SHORT-TERM AND
LONGER TERM RELIEF AND RECOVERY MEASURES FOR \$4 MILLION ARE
PROPOSED. END SUMMARY.

2. RAINFALL/WATER LEVELS

A. RAINY SEASON HAS BEGUN SINCE OUR LAST REPORTS AND RAINFALL IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGUI 00882 01 OF 02 031456Z

JUNE AND JULY INDICATES RESTORATION NORMAL WATER LEVELS IS LIKELY.

HOWEVER, GOCAR STATISTICS, CORROBORATED BY FRENCH AID MISSION HERE, REFLECT LOWEST RAINFALL AND WATER LEVELS ON RECORD IN MOST REGIONS CAR OVER YEAR ENDING WITH DRY SEASON IN MAY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN SPARSELY-POPULATED NORTHEASTERN DISTRICTS BIRAO AND N'DELE, CAR'S TWO MOST DROUGHT-PRONE PREFECTURES, RAINS ONLY REACHED 38 PERCENT AND 73 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY, OF NORMAL LEVELS DURING FIRST FIVE MONTHS 1974, WITH TOTALS OF 1.5 INCHES AND 7.5 INCHES. IN M'BAIKI/LOBAYE AREA BORDERING ON RAIN FOREST, RAINFALL WAS 10 PERCENT LESS THAN NORMAL IN SAME PERIOD.

B. WATER LEVEL OF OUBANGUI RIVER, LIFELINE OF CAR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, SET RECORD LOW MARK DURING FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1974, SINCE BEGINNING OF RIVER MONITORING IN 1912. CHARI, LOBAYE AND OTHER CAR WATER SHEDS SIMILARLY AFFECTED. ACCORDING UNDP, CAR PORTION LOWER CHAD BASIN RECEIVED 19 BILLION CUBIC METERS WATER IN FIRST HALF 1974 COMPARED AVERAGE ANNUAL VOLUME 40 BILLION.

C. SITUATION HERE CLEARLY LESS SERIOUS AND SPECTACULAR THAN CONDITION SAHELIAN COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS, WATER SHORTAGES, COUPLED WITH HIGH RATE OF INFLATION, INCLUDING HIGHER ENERGY COSTS, HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IMPORT-DEPENDENT, PREDOMINANTLY SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE CAR ECONOMY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, GOCAR CONSIDERED SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS FOR MINISTER OF PLANS MOKODOPO FORMALLY APPROACH UN SECGEN IN JUNE FOR DOUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE UNDER PARA.C, SECTION OF 10 OF UNDP RESOLUTION 3202. UN RES REP SUPPORTED CAR APPEAL IN JULY 25 LETTER TO UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL.

3. EFFECTS OF WATER SHORTAGE

A. TRANSPORT - FONMIN POTOLOT TELLS ME THAT PRINCIPAL DAMAGE IN CAR DUE TO REDUCED RAINFALL WAS CHOKING OFF OF TRANSPORT TO AND FROM COUNTRY WHICH HAS NO RAIL OR YEAR-ROUND ROAD ACCESS TO SEA PORTS. DROP IN WATER FLOW HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PERIOD OF NAVIGABILITY OF OUBANGUI, COUNTRY'S MAJOR OUTLET TO SEA 1,300 MILES DISTANT. IN FIRST SIX MONTHS 1974 THERE WERE AT LEAST 74 NON-NAVIGABLE DAYS AT PRINCIPAL PORT BANGUI COMPARED TO 48 IN 1973, 46 IN 1972, AND NONE IN 1971 AND 1970. ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGUI 00882 01 OF 02 031456Z

RESULT HAS BEEN SHORTAGES OF NECESSARY AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND STAPLE GOODS, CAUSING HIGHLY INFLATED PRICES. ANOTHER WAS CUT-BACK IN VOLUME OF EXPORTS AND CONSEQUENT GOCAR REVENUE LOSSES.

IN ADDITION TO NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR CAR EXPORT AND IMPORTS DROP IN WATER LEVELS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED AGRICULTURE IN NORTH, REDUCED HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER OUTPUT AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CAUSING SOME UNEMPLOYMENT, AND STRAINED LIMITED CAR

HEALTH SERVICES.

B. AGRICULTURE - EDF FIGURES FOR PAST CROP YEAR REFLECT 20 PERCENT REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION OF PEANUTS, A PRINCIPAL FOOD CROP, AND 10 PERCENT DROP IN PRODUCTION OF COTTON, CAR'S MAJOR EXPORT CROP, FROM 52,000 TONS TO 45,000 TONS. HOWEVER, THESE SHORTFALLS, ACCORDING TO EDF, LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO NON-DROUGHT-RELATED FACTORS. ADDITIONALLY, THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PROSPECTS SINCE REFERENCE REPORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE SUFFICIENT RAINS TO ENABLE PLANTING OF PEANUT CROP ON SCHEDULE. GOOD HARVEST, OF COURSE, STILL DEPENDENT ON CONTINUATION PRESENT GOOD RAINS. EVEN SO, SOME OVERALL PRODUCTION SHORTFALL IN NORTH LIKELY GIVEN LOSSES PRIOR TO RAINY SEASON.

PRINCIPAL ADVERSE IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENT RAINFALL ON AGRICULTURAL SECTOR HAS BEEN SHORTAGE OF WATER FOR LIVESTOCK AND RESULTANT OVERGRAZING. THIS WILL REQUIRE PLANNING TO PREVENT OVERGRAZING DURING DRY SEASON BEGINNING NOVEMBER.

C. HEALTH - ACCORDING TO WHO EXPERTS AND MISSIONARIES WATER SHORTAGES IN NORTH HAVE LED TO CONSIDERABLE HIGHER INCIDENCE OF SCHISTOMIASIS, AMOEBIC DYSENTERY AND RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO INCREASED DEPENDENCE ON WATER FROM STAGNANT POOLS. FENCH AID MISSION HEAD ESTIMATES RAINFALL SCARCITY HAS HAD DIRECT EFFECTS ON HEALTH OF ABOUT 10,000 PERSONS IN NORTH. IN CONVERSATION WITH ME, FONMIN POTOLOT STATED THAT DISEASE AND SICKNESS IS ALSO BEING BROUGHT INTO CAR BY DROUGHT-AFFECTED CHADIANS IN SEARCH OF BETTER GRAZING CONDITIONS. ASIDE FROM THIS, CHADIAN SOUTHWARD MIGRATION, WHICH IS APPARENTLY NOT GREAT, HAS CREATED NO SERIOUS RESETTLEMENT PROBLEM IN THIS RELATIVELY UNDERPOPULATED LAND.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BANGUI 00882 01 OF 02 031456Z

WHILE REDUCTION IN RAINFALL MUCH LESS SEVERE IN BANGUI THAN FOR NORTH, HYDROELECTRIC POWER SHORTAGES HERE HAVE LED TO SOME FOOD SPOILAGE, INCREASING THE DANGER OF CONTAMINATED FOOD.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00882 02 OF 02 031458Z

47

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SP-03 EB-11 IGA-02

SWF-02 SS-20 SPM-01 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 INR-11

DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 HEW-08 DOTE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /228 W

----- 090954

R 031230Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4992

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGUI 0882

4. FOLLOWING PROPOSED PROJECTS ARE DESIGNED, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH UNDP AND OTHER AID AGENCIES, FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT ON CURRENT DROUGHT INDUCED PROBLEMS. MOST PROJECTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITH GOCAR, UNDP, PEACE CORPS AND MISSIONARY PERSONNEL.

A. SHORT TERM PROJECTS

(A) HEALTH - MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE ARE NEEDED TO PROVIDE MINIMAL HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTHERN PREFECTURES HARDEST HIT BY CLIMATIC CHANGE.²⁴ EXISTING DISPENSARIES REQUIRE ELECTRIC OR KEROSENE REFRIGERATORS, STERILIZERS, MICROSCOPES, VARIOUS MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS, MEDICINES, VITAMINS AND 10 OTHERS NEED X-RAY EQUIPMENT. ESTIMATED COST \$114,000.

(2) TRANSPORTATION - DONATION TEN FIVE-TON HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS AND SPARE PARTS TO GOCAR TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT FOOD AND OTHER GOODS INTO DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS. TRUCKS ALSO TO BE USED LINK CAR TO SEA AT DOUALA WHEN OUBANGUI IMPASSABLE. ESTIMATED COST \$200,000.

(3) WATER DEVELOPMENT - WELLS TO BE SUNK AND PROPERLY EQUIPPED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGUI 00882 02 OF 02 031458Z

IN NORTHERN CAR TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHERE WATER RESOURCES HAVE BEEN INADEQUATELY UTILIZED. SEVENTY-FIVE INITIAL WELLS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN BIRAO-N'DELE AREAS. PROGRAM INCLUDES PURCHASE OF WELL DIGGING AND DRILLING EQUIPMENT, PUMPS, ENGINES WHERE NECESSARY, PIPES, STORAGE FACILITIES AND LABOR. TECHNOLOGY FOR THIS TYPE PROGRAM DEVELOPED AND PROVEN SOUTHERN CHAD BY

PEACE CORPS. ESTIMATED COST \$300,000.

(4) RANGE MANAGEMENT EXPERT - PROVISION OF AMERICAN RANGE MANAGEMENT EXPERT ASSIST CAR IN PLANNING FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL CAR AND CHADIAN CATTLE HERD IN NORTH CAR. STUDY WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH WATER AND FODDER MANAGEMENT ALONG MIGRATORY ROUTES, AND DISEASE CONTROL. ESTIMATED COST \$50,000.

B. LONGER TERM PROJECTS

(1) AGRICULTURE - SEED MULTIPLICATION PROJECT AS PROPOSED BY RDO YAOUNDE IN REGULAR AID BUDGET ALLOCATION CHANNELS TO COUNTER LOSSES DUE DEGENERATION OF SEEDS OF MAJOR FOOD CROPS. PROJECT PLACEMENT IN ABUNDANT RAINFALL AREAS OF CAR HAS POTENTIAL ACHIEVE INCREASED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND EVENTUALLY PROVIDE FOOD EXPORTS TO WATER AND FOOD DEFICIT AREAS OF NORTH INCLUDING SAHEL. SEPARATE TELEGRAM WILL FOLLOW ON THIS SUBJECT.

(2) UPGRADING OF THE M'BAIKI - MONGOUMBA ROAD TO PERMIT UTILIZATION PORT OF MONGOUMBA, WHICH IS NAVIGABLE ALL YEAR, DURING PERIODS WHEN LOW WATER PREVENTS UPSTREAM PASSAGE TO BANGUI. THIS WOULD FACILITATE YEAR ROUND FLOW OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS TO BANGUI AND WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO TIMBER EXPORTS. PROJECT INVOLVES ENGINEERING STUDY, PROVISION OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS STORAGE FACILITIES, AND MAINTENANCE TRAINING FOR FIFTY MILE ROUTE TO CONNECT WITH HARD SURFACE ROAD AT M'BAIKI. ESTIMATED COST \$400,000.

(3) AUGMENTATION OF CAR PETROL BARGE FLEET. AS MOST RIVER TRAFFIC CONFINED JUNE-DECEMBER, CAR CONSEQUENTLY UNABLE EXPORT AND IMPORT FULL YEAR'S REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT ADEQUATE FLEET. PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CARRIED ON GOCAR OWNED AND OPERATED BARGES, EVEN BEFORE RECENT NATIONALIZATIONS. INCREASING WORLD PRICES PLUS TRANSPORT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BANGUI 00882 02 OF 02 031458Z

SUPPLY PROBLEMS HAVE MADE FUEL EXPENSIVE AND SCARCE. DOUBTFUL STOCKS CAN BE BUILT UP ADEQUATELY COVER NEXT DRY SEASON. FOUR 1,000 CUBIC METERS CAPACITY GASOLINE BARGES AND ONE 800 H.O. PUSH BOAT WOULD GO FAR TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEM. ESTIMATED COST: \$2,500,000.

(4) CRANE - PROVISION OF ONE 40 TON CRANE TO REDUCE FREIGHT HANDLING BOTTLENECK AT BANGUI PORT. LACKING A LARGE CRANE BANGUI PRESENTLY DOES NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO HANDLE CONTAINER TRAFFIC. ESTIMATED COST \$500,000.

(5) RIVER NAVIGABILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY - PROVISION OF TEAM OF EXPERTS TO ASSESS COST FOR DREDGING AND BLASTING RAPIDS

TO IMPROVE NAVIGABILITY OF THE OUBANGUI FROM MONGOUMBA TO
BANGASSOU. COST \$100,000.
DALE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGUI00882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740212-0654
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740876/aaaacnks.tel
Line Count: 280
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 156186; (B) BANGUI A-39, M, AY 4; (C) BANGUI 0411
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974; DROUGHT EFFECTS ON CAR
TAGS: EGEN, ETRN, ENRG, EIND, EAGR, ETRD, EAID, CT, US, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005